

Atlantic Richfield Company

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May 5, 2014

Mr. Steven Way
On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Program (8EPR-SA)
US EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
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Delivered via e-mail

**Subject: April 2014 Monthly Progress Report
Rico-Argentine Mine Site – Rico Tunnels
Operable Unit OU01, Rico, Colorado**

Dear Mr. Way,

This progress report describes activities conducted during the month of April 2014 at the Rico-Argentine Mine Site (site) and activities anticipated to occur during the upcoming month. These activities are organized by task as identified in the Removal Action Work Plan. This progress report is being submitted in accordance with Paragraph 35.a of the Unilateral Administrative Order for Removal Action (the "UAO"), dated March 17, 2011.

ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL

This section describes significant developments during the preceding period including actions performed and any problems encountered during this reporting period.

Site-Wide Activities

- None.

Task A – Pre-Design and Ongoing Site Monitoring

- Initiated updates to the 2013 site *Sampling and Analysis Plan for Surface Water and Groundwater* (SAP) and *Quality Assurance Project Plan for Surface Water and Groundwater* (QAPP) to document changes to the surface water and groundwater monitoring program.
- Submitted the Preliminary February 2014 Quarter 1 Surface Water and Ground Water Sampling and Flow Monitoring data to EPA.
- Reviewing February 2014 Quarter 1 Surface Water and Ground Water Sampling and Flow Monitoring Report prior to final submittal to EPA and posting to the project SharePoint site.
- Performed additional evaluation of potential improvements on surface water flow data gathering and telemetry. Continued work on the application for an antenna permit with the Town of Rico.
- On April 15, 2014, a site inspection was conducted. The inspection revealed the south flume (DR-6) was blocked by a beaver dam causing the Pond 5 water level to rise near the top of the dike. The beaver dam was cleared and the pond water level receded back to normal. To ensure that the beavers did not rebuild a dam in the south flume, a second inspection was conducted on April 23, 2014. The second inspection found no obstructions in any of the pond outlets.

Task B – Management of Precipitation Solids in the Upper Settling Ponds

- The St. Louis Tunnel discharge was routed to Pond 15 during the Month of April 2014.
- On April 15, 2014, the site was accessed to observe the condition of the Pond 15 outlet. No additional erosion was seen at the separation of the bypass pipeline and the Pond 15 outlet from the March 25, 2014 inspection.
- Began drafting the 2014 Pond 14 Solids Removal Work Plan.

Task C – Design and Construction of a Solids Repository

- Issued the RFP documents for construction of the Phase 1 solids repository to bidders and conducted the pre-bid meeting at site with prospective bidders.
- Revising the Solids Repository Engineering Design and Operations Plan (EDOP) to incorporate comments from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for re-submittal.
- On April 5, 2014, received comments from EPA on the EDOP. Began preparing responses to EPA comments.
- Continued work to secure lands needed for a permanent solids repository.

Task D – Hydraulic Control Measures for the Collapsed Area of St. Louis Tunnel Adit

- Continued design of the proposed St. Louis Tunnel hydraulic control remedy.
- On April 30, 2014, submitted the Final Design Report for the SLT Hydraulic Control Measures.

Task E – Source Water Investigations and Controls

- None.

Task F – Water Treatment System Analysis and Design

- Continued pilot-scale wetland treatability study activities.
 - Flow through the pilot-scale wetland will be maintained until the matrix materials from the rock drain and wetland cell are re-used as inoculum for the wetland demonstration.
- Continued wetland demonstration treatability study activities.
 - Received and evaluated proposals for construction of the wetland demonstration project.
 - Awarded the construction contract for the wetland demonstration project.

ACTIVITIES FOR UPCOMING MONTH

This section describes developments expected to occur during the upcoming reporting period, including a schedule of work to be performed, anticipated problems, and planned resolution of past or anticipated problems.

Site-Wide Activities

- A meeting with EPA is scheduled for May 6, 2014 on site to review the status of the project and upcoming summer season work.

Task A – Pre-Design and Ongoing Site Monitoring

- Inspect the St. Louis Ponds System, water levels, and free-board.
- Review the February 2014 Quarter 1 Surface Water and Ground Water Sampling and Flow Monitoring Reports and post to the project SharePoint site.
<https://www.aecomonline.net/projects/Rico>
- Finalize, and submit to the EPA for review, updates to the 2013 site SAP and QAPP to document changes to the surface water and groundwater monitoring program.
- Coordinate the Peak Flow site-wide surface water and groundwater monitoring event.



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- Continue work on submittal and processing of the application for a telemetry antenna permit for the Rico office building.

Task B – Management of Precipitation Solids in the Upper Settling Ponds

- Inspect the Pond 15 outlet: observe any changes in erosion.
- Continue routing St. Louis Tunnel discharge to Pond 15.
- Complete the 2014 Pond 14 Solids Removal Work Plan.
- Begin working on the 2014 Marine Assurance Plan and Marine Emergency Response Plan.

Task C – Design and Construction of a Solids Repository

- Continue work to secure the Dolores County Land Development Agreement and accompanying Certificate of Designation for the solids repository.
- Continue efforts to secure access to lands needed for a permanent drying facility and solids repository.
- Submit revised EDOP to CDPHE incorporating revisions to address comments
- Respond to EPA comments on the EDOP.
- Review bids for construction of the Phase 1 solids repository.

Task D – Hydraulic Control Measures for the Collapsed Area of St. Louis Tunnel Adit

- Initiate procurement process for the SLT hydraulic control system construction work.

Task E – Source Water Investigations and Controls

- Inspect the Blaine Tunnel Flume and download data from the water level and flow data loggers with in-tunnel support will be provided by EPA.

Task F – Water Treatment System Analysis and Design

- Continue pilot-scale wetland treatability study activities.
 - Maintain flow through the pilot-scale wetland until the matrix materials from the rock drain and wetland cell are re-used as inoculum for the wetland demonstration.
- Continue wetland demonstration treatability study activities.
 - Mobilize to the site and commence wetland demonstration construction activities.
- Continue scoping additional data needs as necessary related to treatment system alternatives.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (951) 265-4277.

Sincerely,



Anthony R. Brown
Project Manager
Atlantic Richfield Company

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